

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01

OMB-01 IO-10 /075 W

----- 008935

O 051215Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2048

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 14670

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, CH, PBOR

SUBJ: SINO-INDIAN BORDER CLASH

1. THE GOI IS PLAYING THE OCTOBER 20 BORDER CLASH ON A LOW KEY. ONE WEST EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCE STATED THAT DURING PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED OCTOBER 23 MEETINGS OF ARMY AND AIR FORCE COMMANDERS IN DELHI, MRS. GANDHI SNUFFED OUT SUGGESTIONS THAT THE INDIANS "DO SOMETHING" TO RETALIATE. AN INDIAN BRIGADIER GENERAL TOLD AN EMBOFF NOVEMBER 3 THAT INDIA SHOULD BEST AVOID A BORDER WAR WITH CHINA. A RENEWED CONFLICT WITH CHINA COULD DRAW IN PAKISTAN AND FACE INDIA WITH A TWO-FRONT WAR. IF INDIA WERE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IT COULD SCORE
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INITIAL SUCCESSES, BUT ITS FORTUNES WOULD REVERSE AS THE

CHINESE SUPERIOR LOGISTICAL RESOURCES AND MILITARY MANPOWER WERE BROUGHT TO BEAR. INDIA COULD NOT COUNT ON THE USSR HELPING OUT BY OPENING A SECOND FRONT.

2. CAUTION, AND AN APPARENT HOPE THAT OCTOBER 20 WAS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT, NOT THE BEGINNING OF A MORE "FORWARD" CHINESE BORDER POLICY, ALSO CHARACTERIZE THE GOI'S HANDLING OF INDIAN PRESS REPORTING. NO NEWS ABOUT THE CLASH WAS RELEASED UNTIL THE STORY BEGAN TO LEAK INTO THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS. A "FRAMEWORK" STATEMENT WAS RELEASED ELEVEN DAYS AFTER THE INCIDENT (NEW DELHI 14525) AND SUPPLEMENTED ON NOVEMBER 4 ONLY AFTER THE CHINESE COUNTER-STATEMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN FIVE EDITORIALS ON THE INCIDENT IN THE DELHI PRESS, ONE BY THE PRO-MOSCOW PATRIOT THAT CHARGED SINO-US COLLUSION AGAINST INDIA. (SEE SEPTTEL) SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS ON NOVEMBER 5 CARRIED REMARKS BY PRO-CPI CONGRESS MP SHASHI BHUSHAN ALLEGING AN INCREASE IN US-PAKISTAN-CHINESE MILITARY MACHINATIONS AGAINST INDIA. IN THE MAIN, HOWEVER, THE BORDER INCIDENT HAS BEEN PLAYING A POOR SECOND TO BANGLADESH IN THE PRESS.
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Message Attributes

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